

## U-2 Pilot Makes First Visit To Homestead Since 1953

Pound, Va., March 11. (AP)—U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers returned to his parents' home here under cover of darkness early today and enjoyed his first long reunion with his family since 1953.

"There's just no words to describe it," the beaming flier said at the end of a day in which he ate a big turkey dinner and took his first horseback ride in years.

Powers's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Powers; his five sisters, and their fourteen children crowded into the Powers home here to renew acquaintances with the pilot.

### "Welcome Home" Tomorrow

Powers was driven down from Washington and arrived about 1 A.M. today. He didn't get to bed until 5 A.M., he said, and then was up again at 7 A.M.

Tomorrow he will be honored at a "welcome home" celebration in nearby Big Stone Gap—a celebration jointly sponsored by the communities of Wise County.

The U-2 pilot said jokingly that he studied Russian during his months in a Soviet prison and though he didn't learn much of the language, "I believe my interrogators learned to speak Russian with a Virginia accent."

He said he still hadn't made up his mind about what he will

do in the future.

Powers's horseback ride was on his father's farm and he commented,

"I enjoyed it very much. . . . I haven't had much opportunity to do that sort of thing recently."

He said it was the first time he had visited with his sisters and their families since the winter of 1953.

Not until late in the day was it discovered that Powers was at his parents' home.

His presence in his home county in Virginia's mountainous southwest, and the prospects of the welcoming program for him tomorrow, appeared today to be stirring in obvious excitement in county residents.

### Citizens Plan Celebration

Powers said he will leave his parents' home in Pound for the exercises at Big Stone Gap, about 25 miles distant, at 12.45 P.M. tomorrow. That's an hour and fifteen minutes before the 2 P.M. ceremonies.

A citizens' committee moved ahead with plans today for the program at the National Guard Armory. Some 500 folding chairs were set up on the bare floor of the armory in Big Stone Gap, which will accommodate 1,500—

so about 1,000 may have to stand up tomorrow.